



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: Oct. 30, 2017

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Pre-Halloween sex offender check finds all but one in compliance

Warrant issued for Howard D. Greene, 50, only offender not confirmed at his registered residence

Detectives recently completed a pre-holiday compliance check of registered sex offenders in Howard County. The goal of the sweep was to identify anyone in violation of the registry's reporting requirements. All but one of the 84 registered sex offenders who reside or work in the county have been verified as reporting in accordance with their parole.

Howard D. Greene, 50, reported as residing in the 8700 block of Frederick Road in Ellicott City, is charged in a warrant with failure to register and providing false information. During the compliance check, detectives confirmed that Greene does not live at his reported address.

Police are releasing a photo of Greene and asking that anyone who sees him or has information about his whereabouts to call 410-313-STOP or email HCPDcrimetips@howardcountymd.gov.

Registered offenders on probation that prohibits contact with children were reminded that they may not participate in trick-or-treat festivities. Detectives conduct regular visits to verify sex offenders' residences and places of employment throughout the year. They also follow up on complaints from the community about offenders who may not be living at their registered locations. A link to the Maryland Sex Offender Registry can be found at www.HCPD.org.

In addition to the sex offender check, police will be out in force on Halloween to help ensure a safe and fun evening for all. Officers will be visible in residential neighborhoods keeping an eye out for unsafe drivers and any signs of vandalism, theft or destruction of property. They will conduct speed enforcement and look for drunk, impaired or distracted drivers.

Parents should also consider the following tips for a safe Halloween:

- Encourage children to trick-or-treat with a group, and before dark. After dark, an adult chaperone should carry a flashlight and choose well-lit streets.
- Wear costumes that are short, snug and flame retardant. Wear light colors or reflective tape and avoid masks that can obstruct vision.
- Teach children they should NEVER go into a stranger's home or car.
- Remind children not to eat treats before they have been inspected by parents.
- Leave porch or other outside lights on to make clear that trick-or-treaters are welcome. Don't let children approach homes that are dark.
- Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard to visitors.
- Drive slowly all evening – you never know when a trick-or-treater may dart into the street.

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